

**What is claimed is:**

1. An image capture apparatus, comprising:
  - a camera for capturing image data of an object
  - 5 to be captured;
  - an illumination illuminating the object to be captured using a plurality of wavelengths;
  - a storage unit storing a recorded image of an object to be captured;
  - 10 a comparison-determination unit comparing the recorded image with obtained image data of the object to be captured and determining whether or not the image and the data match each other; and
  - a material determination unit determining the
  - 15 material of the object to be captured from the image of the object to be captured which has been obtained using the plurality of wavelengths, wherein
  - said image data can be obtained by placing the
  - 20 object to be captured above the camera and the illumination.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
  - said illumination has a plurality of light
  - 25 sources having intensity peaks of different

wavelengths, switches these light sources, and obtains an image of the object to be captured using the plurality of wavelengths.

- 5     3.     The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
              said illumination has a light source emitting  
              light of a continuous range of wavelengths, and  
              when the camera captures an image, an image of a  
              specific wavelength is obtained using a filter.

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4.     The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
      comprising:

              a brightness correction unit correcting a  
              difference in brightness of illumination of light  
15     between different wavelengths on the object to be  
      captured.

5.     The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
              said brightness correction unit comprises a  
20     brightness correction table storing a correction  
      coefficient for correction of brightness.

6.     The apparatus according to claim 4, further  
      comprising:

25             a distance sensor measuring a distance to the

object to be captured, wherein

said brightness correction unit comprises a  
brightness correction table storing a correction  
coefficient for correction of brightness for each  
5 distance to the object to be captured.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
material determination is performed on the  
object to be captured using a part of an image of  
10 the object to be captured.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
as a result of the material determination,  
information about a capturing operation in which a  
15 different material is detected is stored when the  
material of the object to be captured is determined  
to be different from a predetermined material.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
20 an image obtained using one wavelength emitted  
by the illumination is compared with the recorded  
image.

10. The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
25 comprising:

a monitor unit indicating to a user a state in which the object to be captured is held.

11. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
5 image data are obtained using different wavelengths between an even-numbered row and an odd-numbered row of a scanning line of an image obtained by said camera.

10 12. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an image buffer storing an obtained image, wherein

image data is obtained first for material  
15 determination, image data only required for the material determination is stored, image data for comparison with the recorded image is obtained, and image data is obtained in a reverse order, thereby setting memory requirements for an image buffer  
20 smaller than an amount of data which can be stored in the image buffer.

13. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

25 a brightness correction unit having a

brightness correction table storing a correction coefficient for correction of brightness to correct a difference in brightness of light between different wavelengths emitted to the object to be  
5 captured.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said brightness correction table is generated by comparing data obtained when said image capture  
10 apparatus performs a first operation with recorded data using the obtained data when similarity is within a predetermined range.

15. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
15 a standard reflecting object is captured together with the object to be captured to correct a difference in brightness of the object to be captured and illuminated by light having different wavelengths.

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16. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a network communications function.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
25 The recorded image and wavelength

characteristic of the recorded image are recorded  
in the apparatus connected over a network, or the  
recorded image and the wavelength characteristic of  
the recorded image are updated at an instruction  
5 from the apparatus.

18. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
in network communications, encrypted data are  
communicated.

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19. The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising:

an external storage medium access unit reading  
data from an external storage medium, wherein

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the recorded image and wavelength  
characteristic of the recorded image are recorded  
and updated from the external storage medium.

20. The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
20 comprising:

a peripheral image capture camera capturing a  
state of a surrounding area when the object to be  
captured is taken.

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